

IN THE DRAWINGS

Figure 9 is being amended with the attached informal replacement figure, which shows element 15f. Element 15f shows the “reflective film” that was described in the specification. This amendment does not add new matter because the reflective film was already disclosed and described in the specification, in both the Summary and the Detailed Description sections.

RESPONSE

Claims 1-22 were pending before this response. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled and claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 3-22 are now pending after entry of this amendment.

The rejections from the Office Action of June 10, 2005 are discussed below. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

I. Drawing Objections

The drawings were objected to based on various informalities. The Examiner objected to the figures for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the presence of "a reflective film" of claim 4. With this amendment, Figure 9 has been amended and to include 15f, which is a reference to the reflective film. The specification has been amended so the existing reference to "reflective film" is referred to as "reflective film 15f." This is not new matter because the reflective film was already disclosed and described in the specification. The drawing amendment merely adds a reference to the already disclosed element. The reflective film is also present in the Summary in addition to the paragraph in the specification being amended.

The Examiner objected to Figures 5 and 6 for including a reference character not referenced in the description. The specification has been amended with this response so that the description includes character reference 15d. Accordingly, Applicants believe that all of the Examiner's drawing objections have been satisfied.

II. Specification Objections

The abstract has been objected to because of the use of "comprises" rather than "includes" in line 1. Accordingly, Applicants have changed line 1 of the abstract to read: "The invention includes a bar-shaped light source and a light guiding..." As described above, the reflective film reference on page 21 has been amended to include a character reference to match the amended Figure 9.

III. § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1 and 3-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,692,134 ("Ohwada") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,536,932 ("Suzuki"). This rejection is overcome in view of the amendment of independent claim 1 and the dependence from claim 1 of claims 3-11. Independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate claim 2. The Examiner noted that claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate claim 2. The dependent claims 3-11 depending from claim 1 are also in condition for allowance because they depend from allowable independent claim 1.

IV. Conclusion

The rejections in the Office Action dated June 10, 2005 have been addressed and no new matter has been added. Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if it would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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